ROBERT KIRKMAN CHARLIE ADLARD DAVE McCAIG

THE WALKING DEAD™

DELUXE

image

23 SEPT

FINCH

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ROBERT KIRKMAN

DIBUJANTE
CHARLIE ADLARD

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DAVE McCAIG **RUS WOOTON**

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CREADOR DE THE WALKING DEAD
ROBERT KIRKMAN

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ANTERIORMENTE:

Tyreese y Carol se separaron, haciendo que los demás se pregunten que pasó. Con la vida de Allen que pende de un hilo, y la tensión creciente en el grupo, Rick y Lori tratan de consolar a Carol, pero descubren que ha ocurrido lo peor: se ha autolesionado, posiblemente de muerte. Después del incidente, al descubrir a Tyreese y Michonne juntos, Rick estalla, y se arma una pelea entre los mejores amigos.

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¡¡NO DIGAS ESO!!

¡¡MI NOVIA ACABA DE INTENTAR SUICIDARSE!! ¡¿TE CREES QUE NO ME SIENTO LO BASTANTE CULPABLE?!

¡QUE TE JODAN!

WHUMP!

¡¿TENGO QUE ESCUCHARTE DECIRME QUE ES MI CULPA?!

¡¿DE VERDAD CREES QUE NECESITO OÍR ESO AHORA?! ¡¿HAS PERDIDO EL JUICIO?!

SABES LO QUE HAS HECHO.

PRÁCTICAMENTE TÚ LE HAS CORTADO LAS VENAS.

¡CÁLLATE!

WHUD!

WRAMM!

¡NO--

WRAMM!

LA HE MATADO--

WRAMM!

--YO!

NO LA HE MATADO YO.

¿HAS TERMINADO?

MÉTETELO EN LA CABEZA. SI CAROL MUERE--SERÁ POR TU CULPA. QUIERO QUE TE DES CUENTA DE ESO LA PRÓXIMA VEZ QUE TE ESTÉS FOLLANDO A LA "CHICA MISTERIOSA."

Y CÁLMATE DE UNA PUTA VEZ. ¡¿LA VERDAD TE DUELE?!

¡NI SE TE OCURRA PEGARME OTRA VEZ!

ESTÁS LOCO. HAS PERDIDO EL JUICIO.

¡¿YO?! ¡¿CREES QUE YO ME HE VUELTO LOCO?! ¡¿CREES QUE ESTOY REPRIMIENDO LO QUE PASÓ ENTRE CHRIS Y TÚ EN LAS DUCHAS?!

¡RECUERDO EXACTAMENTE LO QUE HICISTE!

SÍ-- YO MATÉ A CHRIS-- VALE--

¡LO ASESINÉ A SANGRE FRÍA!

¡ÉL MATÓ A MI HIJA! ¡LA MATÓ A TIROS, JODER! ¡ESTABA INTENTANDO SUICIDARSE CON ELLA Y POR LO QUE A MÍ RESPECTA, SOLO TERMINÉ EL TRABAJO!

Y LO DISFRUTÉ. DESPUÉS DE TODOS ESTOS MESES Y DEL INFIERNO QUE HEMOS PASADO-- ¡ES CASI LO ÚNICO QUE HE DISFRUTADO!

ME CONVERTÍ EN UN ANIMAL CON ÉL--LE MUTILÉ UNA Y OTRA VEZ-- ¡LE HICE PEDAZOS Y VI CÓMO VOLVÍA A POR MÁS!

TUVE QUE LLEVAR SUS TROZOS AFUERA Y QUEMARLOS ANTES DE QUE TODO EL MUNDO SE DESPERTARA, PARA QUE NO VIERAN LO HORRORES QUE LE HICE A ESE CHICO.

¡Y DISFRUTÉ CADA PUTO MINUTO HASTA EL MOMENTO DE PRENDER EL FUEGO!

NO ME AVERGÜENZO.

¡NO ME AVERGÜEN-ZO!

¿NO TE AVERGÜENZAS DE SER UN ASESINO?

MATÉ POR UNA *BUENA RAZÓN.* LE *ASESINÉ,* SÍ-- PERO ESTABA *JUSTIFICADO.*

MATÓ A MI *HIJA,* POR EL AMOR DE DIOS.

NO SÉ *LO QUE ESTÁ* PASANDO ENTRE VOSOTROS DOS, PERO *POR FAVOR*--CALMAOS. EN SERIO, TÍOS--SOIS *AMIGOS.* NO HAGÁIS ESTO.

PODRÍAIS SALIR *MUY* MAL PARADOS.

SÍ, CHICOS. POR FAVOR... VAIS A *ARREPENTIROS* DE ESTO.

TENÍAS UNA *RAZÓN*--PERO SIGUE SIENDO *ASESINATO,* TYREESE.

MATASTE A *CHRIS* Y PUEDE QUE TAMBIÉN HAYAS MATADO A *CAROL.*

¡¿QUE SIGUE SIENDO *ASESINATO?! ¡¿EN SERIO* ACABAS DE *DECIR* ESO?! ¿QUE *MI* ASESINATO NO ESTABA JUSTIFICADO?

¡¿PERO EL *TUYO* SÍ?!

¡¿QUÉ PASA CON *DEXTER*?!

¡¿QUIERES SACAR *MIS TRAPOS SUCIOS*?! ¡VAMOS A SACAR A RELUCIR *TODOS* LOS ESQUELETOS DEL ARMARIO!

¿YA TE HABÍAS *OLVIDADO* DE ÉSE?

BUSCAS *VENGANZA*, ¿VERDAD, TYREESE?

SÍ--MATÉ A DEXTER. VI UNA OPORTUNIDAD DURANTE EL ATAQUE ZOMBI Y LA APROVECHÉ. LE *PEQUÉ UN TIRO. SABÍA* QUE TODO EL MUNDO CREERÍA QUE HABÍA SIDO UNA BALA PERDIDA Y DEJÉ QUE TODOS SUPUSIERAN QUE ESO HABÍA PASADO.

DEXTER HABÍA AMENAZADO CON ECHARNOS A *TODOS* DE LA PRISIÓN, CON ENVIARNOS DE VUELTA A LA CARRETERA. *NO PODÍA* DEJAR QUE ESO PASARA.

NO LO HICE.

VOSOTROS ME *PUSISTEIS* AL MANDO. ME PEDISTEIS QUE CARGARA CON LAS RESPONSABILIDADES DE TODOS AQUÍ--Y ME HE ENCARGADO DE MANTENEROS A TODOS *A SALVO.*

Y POR ESO *DISPARÉ A DEXTER.*

SÍ.

NO LO HABRÍA OCULTADO-- PERO SABÍA QUE PARECERÍA UN HIPÓCRITA TOTAL DELANTE DE TODOS.

LA GENTE NO TARDARÍA MUCHO EN EMPEZAR A CUESTIONAR MIS DECISIONES DESPUÉS DE *ESO.* HABRÍA PERDIDO TODA EFECTIVIDAD COMO LÍDER.

Y LO *REPITO*-- ESO SERÍA MALO PARA EL GRUPO.

¡¿TUVISTE EN MENTE LO QUE ERA MEJOR PARA EL GRUPO?!

¡Y UNA MIERDA!

QUIZÁS AL *PRINCIPIO*--SÍ. ¡PERO LO VEO ESCRITO EN TU *CARA!* ESTA MIERDA POR LA QUE HAS PASADO--LAS COSAS QUE HAS HECHO PARA *SOBREVIVIR*--ESPECIALMENTE MATAR A DEXTER--

¡TE HA DADO SED DE SANGRE!

ESTÁS EMPEZANDO A *DISFRUTAR* LAS COSAS QUE HACES. SIEMPRE ERES EL PRIMERO DISPUESTO A ACTUAR CUANDO ALGO VA MAL

¡¡LO DISFRUTASTE!!

LO HE VISTO EN TUS *OJOS*-- LO VI CUANDO *MUTILASTE* A ALLEN.

WRAMM!

¡¿CÓMO TE ATREVES?!

¡LO HICE PARA SALVARLE!

¡¿QUÉ?! ¡¿AHORA VAS A MATARME A MÍ?!

¡¿TAN MAL ESTÁS?!

KRAK!

¡VAMOS, ASESINO! ¡¡HAZLO!!

¡MÁTAME, JODER!

¡¡NO SOY UN ASESINO!!

¡ENTONCES DEJA DE ACTUAR COMO TAL!

WRAMM!

DEJA DE ACTUAR COMO TAL...

NO SOY UN ASESINO...

¡RICK!

NO SOY UN...

¡RICK!

WHUD!

THOOM!

¡¡ACK!! ¡¡JODER!!
¡¡MI PIE!!

ESTÚPIDO-- ¡AGH!

POR DIOS, CHICOS--¡OS VAIS A MATAR EL UNO AL OTRO!
SÍ--POR FAVOR, ¡¿ES QUE NO PODÉIS DEJARLO YA?!
RICK-- ¿ESTÁS BIEN?

WRAMM!

¡SUÉL-TAME!

¡¿INTENTAS-- *MATARME* A MÍ?! ¿ME LLAMAS *ASESINO* Y LUEGO INTENTAS *MATARME?*

NO TE HE EMPUJADO POR LA BARANDILLA--TE HAS DESMAYADO-- TE HAS *CAÍDO.*

¡¿QUE ME HE DESMAYA-DO?!

¡Y UNA MIERDA!

BIEN--¿NO ME CREES? PÉGAME OTRA VEZ. ¡ADELANTE!

NO PUEDO.

A LA MIERDA.

NI SE TE *OCURRA* LEVANTARTE. TODAVÍA NO HE ACABADO *CONTIGO.*

TÍOS...

DIOS.

¡RICK!

¿QUÉ HA PASADO?

SE HAN PELEADO.

OH, *DIOS* MÍO-- ¿TE HAS *ROTO* ALGO?

NO LO SÉ.

SIENTO COMO SI *TODO* LO ESTUVIERA.

¿PUEDES PONERTE DE PIE? TENEMOS QUE LLEVARTE A LA *CAMA*.

NO SÉ.

¡MIERDA!

CREO QUE *NO* PUEDO.

UMPH.

UNGH.

TODO LO QUE HICE-- *TODO*--LO HICE POR EL BIEN DE ESTE GRUPO.

TÚ NO PUEDES DECIR LO MISMO.

ESO ME DA LA *RAZÓN.*

LO QUE SEA.

YA ME *DA* IGUAL.

CHICOS-- OH, DIOS.

OH, *DIOS...*

ANDREA-- ¡¿QUÉ HA PASADO?! ¿*CAROL* ESTÁ BIEN?

¿*CAROL*? ¿QUÉ LE HA PASADO A *CAROL*?

ALLEN HA MUERTO.

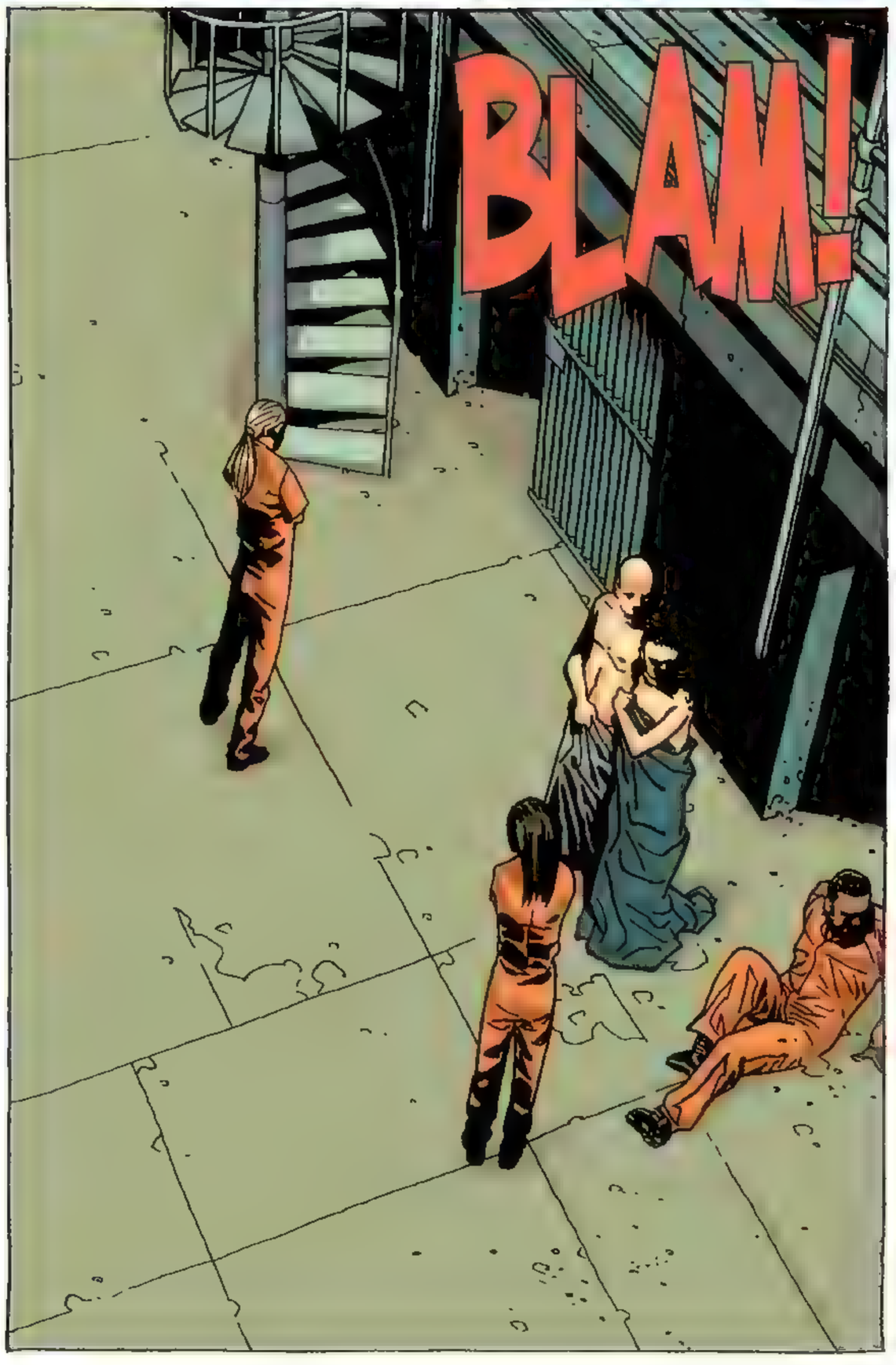
YO LE DISPARARÉ.

NO QUIERO QUE OTRO TENGA QUE HACERLO.

A MENOS QUE CREAS QUE LO VOY A *DISFRUTAR* DEMASIADO...

¿VAS A DECIRME DE QUÉ COÑO VA TODO ESTO EXACTAMENTE?

DESPUÉS.


BLAM!

CAROL SE VA A PONER *BIEN.* NO SE CORTÓ MUY PROFUNDO. APENAS HA PERDIDO SANGRE.

PENSÉ QUE TE VENDRÍA BIEN OÍR BUENAS NOTICIAS.

MICHONNE ME AYUDÓ A SUTURARLA. NO LO PODRÍA HABER HECHO SIN ELLA.

TENGO BASTANTE EN MI CONCIENCIA PARA TENER QUE PREOCUPARME DE QUE UNA CHICA SE SUICIDA PORQUE YO-- BUENO...

RICK, NO TENÍAS POR QUÉ HACERLO. SÉ QUE ALLEN Y TÚ ESTABAIS MUY UNIDOS. *OTRO* PODRÍA HABERLO HECHO. PODRÍA HABERLO HECHO YO--NO TIENES QUE CARGAR CON EL PESO DE *TODOS* SOBRE TUS HOMBROS.

¿RICK?

¿RICK?

WRITE TO US AT: **WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM**

Hi folks! Amanda here, and I've gotta send the highest compliments to Charlie and Dave on this issue. You could always feel the punches in this fight scene, but with the added colors this may be our most brutal non-zombie issue yet. Just phenomenal character work, too. All that emotion comes through on the page and hits you just like it's supposed to. It's gonna take a minute to recover from this one, so let's get into some old Letter Hacks from back in the day.

And like lightning here's issue 23. As you can see this issue shipped a mere two weeks after issue 22 and in another two weeks, you'll see issue 24 on the shelves. We're trying to catch up on the schedule a bit and so these three issues are shipping in RAPID succession.

It's not the most ideal of situations for retailers, I know... but we've got to get that hardcover out in time for Christmas so I'm hoping you people will be understanding in light of that.

Also, in an effort to get this book to the printer really quick-like we're going to be cutting the letters column back a bit (well, A LOT). We should be back to our regularly scheduled insanely long letters column next month, so don't worry.

Now, let's answer some letters, okay?

Once again, great issue. Who's Michonne talking to? I think she's talking to her dead boyfriend. She seems a lil' nutty like that. I mean, notice she didn't mention what she was up to with Tyreese? Never try to keep secrets from the voices in your head people! It'll only result in getting your ass killed... of course, head voice might have to take a number after Carol!

Wheeee! I just love all this soapy smut! But please, less naked Glenn, alright?

You can't have one without the other. Beggars can't be choosers y'know.

Sure hope Allen pulls through if for no other reason than to answer the question first posed (but never satisfactorily answered) in Day Of The Dead about whether or not severing the inflicted area of the body would save the victim. It'd also be great if he was bitter and resentful to Rick for cutting his leg off. Talk about your irony.

Anyway, great job once again all. I still don't like Rick much these days, but he really did pull a solid with Allen so I'm willing to reserve judgement for a bit longer.

Remembering to sign this time,

Darryl Etheridge

P.S. I don't remember ever reading what you thought of Land Of The Dead. Well?

Just read some past letters columns. I've talked about Land of the Dead about a billion times now and I'm NOT doing it again.

Sigh.

I liked it. I thought it was a good flick. I think the only reason it doesn't SEEM as strong as the other three is because we've all seen the other three nine thousand times and we're really grown to love them. Also, I imagine the slightly longer director's cut will be better. It's certainly no Phantom Menace. I liked it. Tell your friends.

Dear TWD crew,

Issue №21 was fantastic! The whole team really pulls together to make the comic better than what you'd expect from the average comic. I like that Robert's writing is through the characters, not about them. Case in point: three of my favorite panels in the book happen on page 3 when Rick mutters "That's not how it works..." to himself while thinking of what to do. That's great. I tend to compare movies and comics a lot (both visual media) and that progression of those three panels is the sort of thing an actor would think to do, but probably wouldn't appear in the script that way. It shows the reader that you're really in the minds of the characters. Charlie, as usual, does a great job of showing shades of emotion in the characters' faces. I love that; it reinforces the ebb and flow of the story's emotional level. As for Cliff, I can imagine that for some it would be very limiting to only work in grey tones, but he continues to enhance the art to such a degree that I can imagine a plethora of colors in the characters' world.

I thought the Clive Barker quote from Andrew Garcia-Price was pretty neat. I had never thought about the zombie concept in that sort of way. I had always assumed that it was just a personification of the basic fear of death. Ya' know, death persuing the living, never tiring, never slacking. Death consuming the living. I guess that's why I tend to prefer "slow zombies" over their running brethren, because I feel it better embodies the slow but steady approach of death.

It's funny to read issue 21 and the stuff that happens with Michonne and then read the letters responding to issue 19 and all the people who were buzzing about her! I doubt any of them expected her to turn out to be some reality TV influenced nutjob! The last two pages were great, it totally captured that "video journal" thing that is the cornerstone of most reality TV. The whole thing seems to explain some of her actions as well: falling in

line with the 'leader' (Rick); becoming a team player; and the stuff with Tyreese - making alliances with established 'players' based on sexual attraction? - total reality TV. I'm now interested in seeing whether she was always crazy or it was just the situation of the zombies that made her snap.

I think you're reading into things just a bit when you associate Michonne's character arc to reality TV. She wasn't so much doing a video journal as she was talking to someone I didn't want you to see. Don't sully this comic by comparing any part to reality TV. It's insulting. Now, if you'll excuse me, Survivor is on tonight and I have popcorn to make.

Course, in a couple of issues you'll probably reveal that she was speaking into a microscopic camera to her government superiors or something like that and I'll be the one who looks crazy! ^_^

At any rate, keep up the stupendous work!
Craig Dresser

Wait, GOVERNMENT SPIES!! MICROSCOPIC CAMERAS... that's not a bad idea... maybe she's working for the aliens.

Yo Robert Dude!

I had this dream last night where I was reading The Walking Dead issue 500 the cover was so kewl , Rick was standing on a pile of dead humans. Inside he was a zombie/cyborg working alongside an all grown up Duane, who seemed like a mad scientist. Only thing is they were taking out the humans. Wierd stuff man, please get out of my head! Oh by the way I saw "40 year old virgin" and you're famous now even more :) he was reading a copy of marvel team-up (№4 I think) with Iron Man & Hulk.I got wierd looks in the theatre when I raised my fist and screamed "KIRKMAN RULES" anyhoo if anyone else has any kirkman sightings out of the funnybooks please let me know!

Rob Steal

I don't want to alarm you in regards to your "dream" but what you were actually seeing was a little thing I like to call "the future." Have I blown your mind yet? No? Well, what if I was to say that was actually issue FIFTY!

Yeah, I know. I'll give you a minute.

Dear Walking Dead,

Before I say anything, I'd like to say thanks for printing my letter in issue 20, no one has ever printed something I wrote, so thanks.

With that said, the idea of having the bite kill a person, but not turn a person, has got to be one of my favorite ideas you've had and ads a fresh twist on the zombie genre once bitten rule. And I loved the panels when Rick figured it out, props to Adlard on his spot on art. I also feel extremely bad for carol, I didn't think I'd give a shit, but there ya have it. Your storytelling is so good I actually care about all the characters. Cept Otis, I did at first, but after that n-word comment, he can get torn to bits for all I care. I mean even after being saved by Michonne and realizing that Tyresse might be the one of the few people he'll know for the rest of his life you'd think he'd drop the racist thing.

You'd think... but apparently he's just a shit head.

That said I love where the book is going, I love that it's a people story with zombies, not the other way around. And most importantly, I love that its a never ending story, I mean if the book last that long, we could see Carl grow up in to one bad ass survivor, cowboy hat and his daddy's axe. Just saying it'd be really fucking awesome.

I don't know if we'll be around THAT long but I'd certainly dig it if we were.

Finally, in my last letter, I realized I didn't name, the comic book store I go to every Wednesday, Cosmix (in Montreal QC) and that made me feel like an asshole cuz the owners are fucking great, had they not suggested the book, I'd have never ever read it. Which would have been a real shame.

Sincerely,
Jon Maggio

p.s. seeing most everyone get to plug something can I plug my own website www.jonmaggio.com

Thanks for the fine read again.

Y'know, technically you're getting to plug TWO things. Your comic shop and your website. The way I see it that's just not fair so I think I'm going to delete the plug for your website.

So does Image have a new rule that every Kirkman book has to be released on the same day every month? Two months in a row Invincible and TWD have come out the same day, and this week Battle Pope was added to the mix. Not that I'm complaining. Getting a nice big chunk of Kirkman once a month isn't a bad thing by any means. And at least I've got MTU to fill the gap.

Well, that's my fault. I seem to turn the books in on the same week. For some reason it always seems like the letters columns, lettered pages, and coloring for all the books ends up getting completed at the same time. It's weird.

About issue 21: 6 panels of "THUNKS!!"? Damn! I can't help but wonder if someone's going to make an artificial foot for Allen (if he survives, that is), or if he's just going to have to hobble around the prison yard. How would you even go about making a foot? I guess Herschel would probably be able to fix something up. Why am I so concerned about this? I'm glad you're featuring Axel more now. He seems really interesting to me for some reason. Maybe it's because he looks like Santa.

While reading the letter column to 21 it appears everyone wants posters. Well, when I was at WWC, Tony was selling large-sized prints of his TWD covers... why not just market them? I only had the cash to get

one (issue 17), but I'm already hoping I'll be able to get a couple more next year.

There will be a full-sized, full color poster available early 2006. How's that for service?

Speaking of WWC, while I was at your booth, I was trying to decide what to buy of yours (seeing as how I already had all of Invincible and TWD, my choices were limited), one of the guys working there actually talked me out of buying Cloudfall or Brit (it was Sunday and I was low on cash, so I could only get one) in favor of Tales from the Bully Pulpit. Considering you call it "one of the best comics ever made" on the back cover, you might not be that upset, but that's seven dollars I didn't spend on your stuff. Long story short: make sure the guys working the booth next year only try to sell your stuff.

Hmmm. Looks like I may need to have a talk with young Benito Cereno.

One last thing...thanks to TWD I have my first official "comics friend" after reading for more than ten years. Sure, every week I have to listen to him say "Damn, when are we going to get a new issue of Walking Dead?!" but it's worth it. Thanks for that.

Aaron Stege

Well, you and your new friends will be happy to know that I'm currently working on the letters column for the next issue RIGHT THIS MINUTE. It'll be in stores before you know.

Brave Sir Kirkman,

Ahh...late night letter writing. What a better time? I forgot everything I wanted to write. I guess I'll wing it.

By the numbers...

1. I am quite pleased that I'll be picking up issue 22 on my birthday in September. I'll be 22, as well... Luckily I age by years while you remain faithful to the monthly system.

Yeah, 22 in September... uh... sorry about that.

2. I am a huge fan of your book and it gave me faith that monsters have awesome stories and not just blood and guts for entertainment.

21. The cover to issue 21 is one of my favorite comic covers of all time. The butterfly is what did it for me.

C. I'm done numbering.

About 2 months after I read the first collection of TWD and had a Romero-thon with my friends over winter break I made a decision. Perhaps life altering. See, I have wanted to be a filmmaker ever since I saw Superman when I was four. Lately, with the drudgery of college bringing me down I thought I ought to just go for it and make a movie. With some influence from TWD and Romero I decided to do a zombie film. With heart. And brains. My plans for the film were to get some recognition and hopefully (beyond hope) get a chance to say "I could direct TWD should it be transferred to film and played on a certain home box office network" (which, to get the full story in, would be the best medium in my opinion). And as soon as I began scripting my flick I heard TWD might get made before I do. I was devastated. But not devastated enough to give up. I will hopefully start filming my zombie flick in late November and if I can cut it together quick enough maybe, just maybe, it might get noticed and give me a little film cred. Even if I don't, this is one book I'd love to see faithfully adapted to film. Keep up the great work on the page and I'll keep spending money to read your books (all of them) even though I work at my comic shop and could just as easily read for free.

Yeah, who knows IF Walking Dead will ever get adapted to TV or film. I'm not losing any sleep over it. I'm happy to focus on the comic.

This ramble is over,
Sam Whitewater

P.S. What is with the alien invasion discussions? I only started reading the last couple of letter columns (can't find all the back issues) and I must have missed something. That's just what I need, zombies and aliens. Together. If that happens, I have to see a zombie and an alien holding hands and skipping through fields of dead bodies. That would be an awesome visual...

It's pretty much public knowledge that this book is going to "jump the shark" at some point after issue 75. That's when I'm going to start throwing in aliens for no damn reason. It's a running joke here in the letters column. Thanks for playing.

Dear Kirkman,

So right off the bat I ask to be a zombie and get turned down, now you tell a guy that you'll think about it. Just kill off Glenn. That's pretty much me...

Oh, and good job with the bite just killing them, not infecting them. I think we talked about this before, but a lot of people are confused about this. Everyone is infected already! Awesome Day of the Dead moment in issue 21 by the way! I expected them to cauterize the wound, but I like the way you handled it.

I did so much research for that I think I could successfully amputate a limb at this point. I'm glad you liked it.

Can't wait until issue 25! Here's to seeing a guy get carried off and feasted upon by zombies, leaving only his severed arm squeezed within the blood-pressure monitoring device! Or something equally cool.

I'm dying to have a blond pregnant woman and a black police officer land a helicopter on the prison roof or something. It's sooooo tempting.

Questions:

1. Will 25 be a big deal in this book? (I ask this thinking to myself that every new issue of a non-canceled comic involving zombies is a big deal)

25 will just be another issue. It's regular-sized and regular-priced... there's some cool stuff planned, but I try to do that EVERY issue.

2. How much did you love Land of the Dead? There are lots of haters out there.

See above.

3. What did you like most about it? Other than sequel possibilities.

I honestly think it had the best, most likeable characters out of any of the Romero films... and they all lived, which makes for GREAT sequel possibilities.

4. Did you know that the word "Zombie" (as referring to "a soulless corpse said to have been revived by witchcraft" formerly, "the name of a snake-deity in voodoo cults of or deriving from West Africa and Haiti.") was first recognized in writing in 1872 by Schele de Vere in "Americanisms"? It described, "Zombi, a phantom or a ghost, not unfrequently heard in the Southern States in nurseries and among the servants." Neat huh...

Now I know, and knowing is half the battle...

5. Did you SEE Zombie King №0!

Frank sent me pages before it even came out. I saw the cow before anyone else. Lucky me... I guess. Neat book. I wish Frank would do more.

So maybe the guy to win the Make-Me-A-Zombie contest could be the guy with the most printed letters (unless Piers wins...damn that guy).

Love,
Chris Pitts

I think you'll be happy to know that you're slowly edging Piers out in the most-letters-printed category. That fucker must have gotten too busy or something.

Robert,

Good afternoon. First, I would like to say that I have been reading comics since 1989 and never felt compelled to write to a writer/ comic letter column until now.

I have been onboard Walking Dead since issue №3. A friend of mine had turned me on to it. Since I'm always looking for a good read, I took his advice and haven't regretted it. I even sought out your other works. Invincible and Marvel Team-up are very good solid reads, but it's TWD I look forward to every month. Even when Tony stopped doing the interiors, I wanted to stop getting it, that's how fond I was of the way he drew these characters. But I found that the writing was so good that it kept me hooked. Tell Charlie that I have since come to love his work as well.

Tony Who?

You have become one of the great writers working in comics today. My problem with Issue №21 is this, The last few pages are so predictable. I saw this with Michonne and Tyreese coming a mile away. I'm not saying this to sound like a literary expert on story construction, it's just that I thought you would go somewhere else with it. I didn't expect you to play it safe and go for the cheap mass audience thrill.

What gave it away? The fact that the cover for issue 22 with them KISSING was online months ago? Or did you actually see it coming in the story? I'll try to keep the covers a little less spoiler-filled from now on.

I was going to wait until Issue №22 came out before I sent this, but I came to the conclusion that there is no way for you to undo what's been done.

Hit me back
Clyde in NJ

It's all leading to something. Don't sweat it.

Kirkman and Co.

Just dropping you another letter to say how much I'm loving the ride so far. The Walking Dead continues month after month (give or take...) to be the best thing in print. Consistently, issue after issue, you put out a comic that is better than the one before it with no signs of slowing. In my previous letter to you printed in Issue №12's Letter Hacks, I (Who have been a HUGE fan of the zombie genre for the last half of my life) told you that I prefer the Walking Dead to any of Romero's works. While you pretty much said that I was a blasphemer, I still stand by my statement- Night of the Living Dead, Dawn of the Dead and Day of the Dead are three of my favorite movies in my collection, and yet, I'd take the run of The Walking Dead over them nine times out of ten. As such, I'm glad I was able to provide you with the "highest compliment paid to you"... You deserve it, man. Your book kicks mucho ass.

I still think if those movies were 24 hours long each you'd change your mind in a second. I just have more time to play with here--that's the only difference. Thanks again, though... it means a lot that you think so.

I've read through the entire run of the series (from issue №1 through whatever happens to be the latest issue at the time) going on ten or so times now, and by the sounds of a lot of the other fans sounding off in Letter Hacks, I'm not the only one. The Walking Dead pulls you in and doesn't stop to twist, holding your attention the entire time, every time through. Everyone I know that I've introduced to the series has read it through in one go, reading as much of it as they can. Then, when they're finished, the question I tend to hear the most is "Is this all you've got?"

There was a point where I was lending my Walking Dead trades out to as many people as I could get to read them... at one point, a new issue was being passed through eleven hands... Then, I decided that they would have to start paying up in order to keep reading. I've even offered to pick up the issue for them as most of them likely haven't ever stepped foot in a comic store.

You deserve the cash for the perfect, perfect book you've provided us with.

Wow, man—you're an all right guy. Really.

Speaking of buying your stuff, put me down as another vote in favor of Posters... I'd be all over a Walking Dead poster! By the sounds of it, the cover of Issue №9 seems to be the popular vote (and I tend to agree- it's my favorite cover thus far) but an original Tony Moore piece done especially for the poster would kick mucho ass as well. I'm also looking forward to December's Walking Dead hardcover volume and whatever goodies you're going to include in it... I can't wait! While you're at it, make any other Walking Dead crap you can get out there... t-shirts, action figures, decorative toilet lid covers- If it's Walking Dead, I'll buy it. (I guess I'm just a consumer whore...)

I'll be getting right on those decorative toilet lid covers. I can't WAIT!

It's good to see that the books are getting back on time... while I don't REALLY mind the delays (I used to read Battle Chasers), I still find myself getting anxious waiting for the next issue to find out what crazy twists you're going to unleash on Rick and the rest of the crew. It's also good to see that sales keep climbing... It's only a matter of time before HBO starts knocking on your door to produce a Walking Dead ongoing TV series... (Fingers crossed...)

Issue 21, as always, set the bar for the series even higher... How the hell do you do it, man? The scene with Carl and Sophia is one of the best the book has had to offer thus far (and that says a lot). It's stuff like this that make your book stand out from everything else zombie related. Brilliant, man... simply brilliant.

I'm digging Michonne so far, but like the rest of the fans, I'm dying to know her back story... It'll also sweet to see her in combat when push comes to shove. She seems like she'll be pretty cool in a combat situation. Cool twist on her at the end of Issue 21... I wonder just who it is that she thinks she's "conversing" with... Having her pursue Tyreese is a sweet play, too. A nice "soap opera" addition to the story with Carol catching a glimpse of Michonne helping Tyreese "let off some steam". By the looks of next month's cover, Michonne's just starting to stir things in the jail up too... Very nice.

If not a bit predictable...

The only thing that I question from Issue 21 is the fact that Axel is armed... I know he's the only prisoner left and hasn't shown any signs of untrustworthiness but I didn't think that Rick and the rest of the group would take any chances after what went down with Dexter. I'm also surprised to see that the group is giving Patricia as many freedoms as she's getting after issues 18 and 19... In a situation such is theirs, you shouldn't get many chances.

Honestly what are they going to do? Lock her up and baby-sit her? It's not an ideal situation and they're making due. I doubt they'll be giving her a gun anytime soon.

Also, I'm going to take a shot in the dark and say either Glenn or Maggie is going to bite it soon... They seem to have a good thing going, and good things never last long in a world ruled by zombies. Also, I assume Billy is going to be zombie fodder soon enough as he really hasn't done much thus far... Ben and the other Billy (see, you already have too many Billys... kill one off) haven't really had much of a part in the story yet, either, and it'd be nice to see them used in some way, if only to feed the ranks of the living dead.

I would also like to commend you on your letters column, as not enough comics maintain them nowadays... It's nice to see you taking the time to answer the large amount of letters you get in a given month seeing as you're writing like fifty or so books in a month. Another testament to how great the book is, is the very small amount of hate mail you've managed to receive, despite the open call for it. You even went as far as saying that a negative letter is guaranteed to see print and still, nothing. That said, um, kiss my ass or something... (Is that enough to have this letter see print?)

Oh, one thing I've been meaning to ask- Will the alternate version of Issue 10's cover ever see print in any way, shape or form? (You know, the one that I keep seeing online, with Rick with an axe in his hand, covered in blood, with the blanket wrapped around him? I'm pretty sure it's Mr. Adlard's art but it's hard to tell...) If it's an available variant, you must tell me where I can track one down...

Every possible issue of Walking Dead must be mine! (Again, I'm a consumer whore...)

That cover is going to be used for THE WALKING DEAD SCRIPTBOOK which will be out a week or so after this issue. Buy at your own risk, though--it's got NO PICTURES. It's 40 pages for $3.99, ask for it by name. Also, that cover is by Cliff, not Charlie.

I guess that's enough of MY ass kissing for now... Please, keep up the good work. I'll be with this book as long as you're putting it out- and that's a promise.

Corey Janson

PS- I'm also REALLY loving Invincible, too. It's great to see the diversity of work you have hitting the market. I only read it in trades, however, so the wait time in between sucks... Nonetheless, I can't wait to see what you have in store for that book as well. (Okay, NOW I'm done ass kissing)

Well, if you hate waiting for the trades, I've got an idea-- BUY THE SINGLE ISSUES!! They've got letters columns, pin-ups, back-ups and all kinds of cool stuff.

Okay folks, that's it for this month. I'll make it up to you soon. Sorry this letters page is so short this time around.

Be sure to check out Marvel Zombies, the new five-issue mini-series Sean Phillips and I are doing for MARVEL starting in December. It's going to be really cool. I promise.

See you in a couple weeks (I promise)

-Robert Kirkman

NÚMERO 23

SALA DE MONTAJE

con Robert Kirkman

TWD 23

(1) TYREESE DÁNDOLE UN PUÑETAZO A RICK (CONT...)

(2) TYREESE CONT. PELEA "HAS PERDIDO EL JUICIO!"

(3) MÁS PELEA. ¿TERMINADO?

(4) ¿A TODA PÁGINA? ¿HAS ~~ACABADO~~?

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8) ¿QUÉ PASA CON DEXTER?

(9) QUERÍAS CORTARLE LA PIERNA--LO HE VISTO EN TUS OJOS.

(10) CÓMO TE ATREVES?! LE ABORDA CONTRA LA BARANDILLA.

(11) MÁS PELEA. RICK CON VENTAJA.

(12) TYREESE LE TIRA POR ENCMIA DE LA BARANDILLA DEL SEGUNDO PISO.

(13) AMPLIO - RICK EN PRIMER PLANO TYREESE BAJA LAS ESCALERAS EN EL PANEL 3 JUNTO A RICK N4

(14) RICK PATEA A TYREESE EN LA CABEZA.

(15) MÁS PELEA. APARECE LORI... DALE, OTIS, PATRICIA.

(16) RICK INTENTA PONERSE DE PIE -- NO PUEDE. SE CAE.

(17) MÁS PELEA TYREESE ATACA.

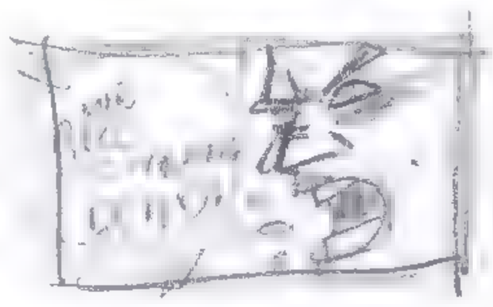
(18) 3 PANELES (1)YA BASTA! (2)ALLEN HA MUERTO! (3)ALLEN HA MUERTO.

(19) TYREESE Y RICK SE QUEDAN PARALIZADOS. RICK SE PONE DE PIE "YO LE DISPARARÉ." ANDREA "YA LO HE HECHO YO." (¿CÓMO?)

(20) PLANO AMPLIO DE TYREESE BLAM! DESDE LA CELDA ¿LORI LO MIRA MAL?

(21) RICK CON EL ARMA SE PARA AL LADO DE ALLEN. ENTRAN HERSHEL, MICHONNE. CAROL ESTÁ BIEN. NO TENÍA CORTES PROFUNDOS. MICHONNE ME AYUDÓ A SUTURARLA.

(22) RICK SE DESPLOMA "RICK!"



Vale, antes que nada, quiero señalar una de las cosas más chulas que hicimos en esta serie. La PRIMERA página de este número y la ÚLTIMA página del número anterior forman una página doble. ¿A que eso mola?

Creo que he sido bastante sincero respecto a mi amor por *Savage Dragon* de Erick Larsen. Es mi cómic favorito de todos los tiempos. Y al igual que Larsen toma ideas en gran medida de Jack Kirby y otros creadores de su juventud... yo hago lo mismo. Este truco de partir una doble página en dos números lo hizo él en *Savage Dragon* №30 y №31. Es un truco muy guay. No sé por qué ninguno de los dos lo hemos vuelto a hacer desde entonces.

Esta serie siempre se escribió teniendo presente los volúmenes recopilatorios. Por eso los números se integran la perfección con el siguiente. La idea es que cuando se recopilara, tendría que parecer una novela gráfica que se concibió en todo momento para que se leyera de esa forma (porque es el formato en el que la mayoría de la gente la lee). Dicho esto, me parece que la fuerza que tiene esta serie se debe en parte a hacer que cada número individual tenga un gran momento importante que se baste por sí solo, así que ya sabéis... intentaba hacer lo mejor de ambos mundos.

Este número va más o menos de una gran pelea entre Rick y Tyreese, lo que resultó muy divertido, y fue genial dejar que Charlie se soltase y dibujara una página tras otra de acción de los nudillos ensangrentados, mientras que en un cómic típico habitual tienes dos personajes regañando entre ellos todo el tiempo.

Este número podría haberse subtitulado, "el número en el que se constata que estos dos tíos están chalados". Aunque eso probablemente se podría aplicar a la mayoría de números de esta serie.

¡ALERTA DE DIBUJO! Buscad en la parte inferior de la trama el nacimiento del gran momento (SPOILERS) que se publicará en el siguiente número. Se me ocurrió esa doble página mientras hacia la trama de este número y decidí plasmarlo en forma de dibujo en vez de anotarlo.

DATO CURIOSO: Estaba yo en San Diego, en la Comic-Con, comiendo con Eric Stephenson y John Layman cuando se me ocurrió la idea de la escena del "Nosotros Somos los Muertos Vivientes". Se me ocurrió durante un silencio en la conversación al final de la comida.

Muy bien... veamos unas Notas de Página:

1: (Cont...) Esa es mi abreviatura para "la otra mitad de la doble página".

2-7: No me preocupé mucho en hacer la trama aquí. Ya sabía lo que ocurría.

8-11: Más o menos solo anotaba lo que decían las partes claves del diálogo en estas páginas.

12: ¡Vaya! ¡Mirad eso! ¡Originalmente, Tyreese iba a tirar por encima de la barandilla a Rick intencionalmente! Ese fue un gran cambio. Durante el proceso de escribir el guion del número, me di cuenta de que sería un poco excesivo que Tyreese perdiera el control hasta el punto de que básicamente tratara de matar a Rick. Y también le habría dado la razón a Rick de que Tyreese era quien era inestable y peligroso... pero nunca vi al personaje de Tyreese así.

13: MÁS DATOS CURIOSOS: Esta escena se basa en cierto modo en la vida real. Cuando era adolescente, ayudé a mi padre a reparar nuestro tejado. Mientras estaba arriba trabajando, teníamos tela asfáltica para colocar las tejas encima, y pisé sobre una parte que se superponía al tejado, pensando que había más tejado debajo de la tela. No lo había, y me precipité al suelo. Por suerte, vivíamos en una casa de una sola planta y aparte de unos rasguños, estaba perfectamente. PERO inmediatamente después de caer, hablamos de 3 segundos, mi padre SALTÓ como si nada del tejado igual que un superhéroe. Aterrizó justo a mi lado y comprobó que yo estaba bien. Así que eso es lo que inspiró que Tyreese saltara para asegurarse que Rick estaba bien en esta página. Pero mi padre no se hizo daño en el pie. Tenía que hacer que la escena del cómic fuera más creíble.

15: Decidí que habría menos gente en esta escena a la hora de escribir el guion.

18: Sabiamente decidí hacer una página de un solo panel aquí. Para conseguir el máximo impacto. Bastante más efectivo que una página de tres paneles y tenía el beneficio adicional de parecer la última página de un número, así que si vas pasando las páginas del volumen intentando averiguar dónde empiezan y terminan los números--¡resulta DIFÍCIL!

19-22: A partir de aquí, todo se desarrolla más o menos según lo planeado. Es gracioso que estuviera tratando de hacer el que Rick se desmayara un gran momento de suspenso cuando ya se había desmayado dos veces por la pelea, y es una locura que incluso fuera capaz de ponerse de pie al final del número. Afortunadamente, ¡funcionó!

PORTADA
CHARLIE ADLARD
COLORES DAVE STEWART

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“¡NOSOTROS SOMOS LOS MUERTOS VIVIENTES!”

DAVID FINCH

TONY MOORE

JULIAN TOTINO TEDESCO

NÚMERO 24

¡DISPONIBLE 6 DE OCTUBRE, 2021!

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